




Berkshire Education Committee.

REPORT
of the
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
for the Year
1955.



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Berkshire Education Committee.

REPORT
of the
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
for the Year
1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Berkshire Education Committee.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the School Health Service for the year 1955.

There was again a very substantial rise in the school population which increased by about 2,000 children during the year.

The health of the school children of the County continued to be very satisfactory, and one indication of this can be seen in the continued improvement that is shown by the figures for the general condition of the children on page 4 of the Report.

The two main problems were again concerned with the shortage of dentists and of places for educationally subnormal pupils. With regard to the first of these, it still proved impossible during the year to recruit more than half the number of dentists that we need. The serious handicap that this situation imposes will be at once apparent. Even so, definite progress can be reported in other directions. In the middle of the year the Education Committee decided to provide a dental clinic in Wokingham, adjacent to the Westcott Road School. The new dental clinic at Didcot, although accommodated in temporary premises that could only be regarded as satisfactory on the basis that they *were* a temporary expedient, was able to provide a centre for dental work where there is a considerable school population.

In regard to the second problem, the need of more places for educationally subnormal children, it is also possible to report progress, for the Authority decided early in the year to provide, in the year 1956-57, a day school for educationally subnormal pupils in the north of the county. Subsequently, it was decided to provide a ^{FIVE} ~~three~~-class day school for 100 pupils. Abingdon was selected as the most suitable site, and the Minister approved this proposal for the main building programme for the year 1956-57. A very important feature of this school is that it is to be a *day school*, notwithstanding the considerable difficulties that arise in providing such a school in a rural county. These difficulties, which involve chiefly problems of transport, have been referred to in previous Reports. There is now a definite trend towards the day special school, in spite of the difficulties, and there is much to be said in justification of this. For the younger children in particular, it is preferable to avoid a child leaving its home if possible. This receives strong support from practical experience, for considerable numbers of parents decline the offer of a place in a residential special school, because they do not want their child to go away from home. Although it is possible to enforce attendance by legal action, this is not often done; and advisedly, for such a procedure will carry serious risks in relation to the happiness of the child and his family, and therefore in relation also to the benefit that the child is likely to derive. Very great

benefit can be obtained if children can go to special schools at a sufficiently early age, so that the objections referred to above lend powerful support to the trend in favour of the day school. It must also be remembered that the transport difficulties can be balanced to a large extent by saving on the very substantial cost of residential facilities.

The need for places in special schools and special classes for educationally subnormal children is especially marked in regard to children in the younger age groups. In this connection, it is an important feature of the problem that such children derive a relatively very large amount of benefit from the social training of school, apart from education in the narrower sense of the term. For this reason alone the provision of suitable facilities for them is well worth while. The relative benefit, particularly if it can be obtained during the earlier years, is very high. Much is being achieved by the many teachers up and down the county who are ready to do what is humanly possible for these children in the ordinary school, in spite of the many and great difficulties that have to be overcome. However, the only really satisfactory answer to the problem is more places in special classes and special schools. The number of children waiting for these can be seen in the Report, and it can be said that a gratifying return will be obtained from all that is done for children in this category.

I should like to thank the Committee for its unfailing understanding and support, and the Director of Education and his staff (not least, the many teachers) for their co-operation and ready help throughout the year. Finally, I should like to thank my own staff, who have maintained a high standard whatever problems have had to be met.

E. C. H. HUDDY,

Principal School Medical Officer.

September, 1956.

Staff of the School Health Service

1955.

Principal School Medical Officer:

E. C. H. HUDDY, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior School Medical Officer:

W. F. WAUDBY-SMITH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

School Medical Officers:

R. F. BARCLAY, M.B., B.S. (part-time).
E. M. BELL, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (part-time).
D. L. V. FRASER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A.
A. H. GRIFFITH, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (part-time; resigned 11.4.55).
E. M. HAMILTON, M.B.E., M.B., D.P.H. (part-time; commenced 16.5.55).
J. G. HARCOURT-NORRIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
N. F. W. HOWORTH, M.B., B.S.
S. J. MACCLATCHEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H. (part-time).
M. J. O'DONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (part-time).
N. C. PARFIT, B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H. (part-time).
E. H. C. STEWART, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.
F. M. C. WOLFE, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Principal School Dental Officer:

O. JACOB, L.D.S., R.C.S.

School Dental Officers:

MRS. G. M. BASFORD, L.D.S.
MISS E. M. CURRIE, L.D.S.
C. C. GRANT, L.D.S.
E. V. HICKS.
MISS H. M. JAKS, L.D.S. (part-time; commenced 11.1.55).
MRS. B. A. MAUDSLEY, B.D.S. (part-time; commenced 5.9.55).
MR. D. M. N. SCOTT, L.D.S., R.C.S. (part-time; commenced 7.11.55).
MRS. M. A. SIEVERS, L.D.S. (part-time; resigned 31.5.55).
H. TRELEAVEN, L.D.S. (part-time).

Four Private Practitioners employed on a sessional basis to an equivalent of a half-time School Dental Officer.

Speech Therapists:

MISS M. HOOKER, L.C.S.T.
MISS M. ST. ALPHONSE, L.C.S.T.

Psychiatrists (part-time):

L. C. F. CHEVENS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M. (commenced 13.6.55).
L. F. HUTTON, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (resigned 31.3.55).
G. O'GORMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.
M. E. E. WARD, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M.

Educational Psychologist (part-time):

MRS. M. F. SCOTT-BLAIR, M.A., A.B.P.S.

Clinical Psychologist (part-time):

MRS. A. SINGER, Ph.D., D.E.P.

Psychiatric Social Workers (part-time):

MISS M. M. G. EWART (resigned 30.6.55).
J. N. HOOKER, B.Sc.
MISS S. E. LYNN (commenced 26.9.55).
MISS M. L. SHEPPARD (resigned 30.4.55).
MISS M. D. WALSH (commenced 14.11.55).

Orthoptist (part-time):

MRS. H. CAIGER-SMITH.

School Nurses:

MISS D. E. BARNARD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (part-time; resigned 5.2.55).
MISS C. E. BISHOP, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (part-time).
MISS E. E. CARDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M.
MISS A. CRUICKSHANK, S.R.N., T.B.Cert.
MRS. E. I. DOUGLAS-GILBERT, S.R.N.
MRS. E. S. L. HENRY, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.
MISS A. MELLUISH, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (part-time).
MISS B. OWEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (part-time).
MRS. E. M. PINTON, S.R.N.
MISS W. RICHARDSON BROWN, S.R.N.
MRS. D. SMITH, S.R.N. (commenced 12.10.55).
MISS K. M. STEPHENS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (part-time).
MISS E. J. STIBBS, S.R.N., S.C.M.
MISS K. M. TAYLOR, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (part-time).
MISS A. TODD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
MISS O. A. UNDERWOOD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (part-time).
MISS H. E. VICKERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (part-time).
MISS C. E. WELLS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (resigned 31.10.55).
MISS C. WILSON, S.R.N. (resigned 31.7.55).

Together with District Nurses to an aggregate of 3 whole-time School Nurses.

School Dental Attendants:

MISS A. ADEY.	MISS G. A. McNICOL.
MISS P. ELTON.	MISS E. M. NORMAN,
MRS. J. M. GRIMMETT.	MISS K. WALTERS,
MISS E. B. HIGLEY (part-time; commenced 7.11.55),	

Nursing Assistant:

MISS K. E. WHALE,

BERKSHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

School Health Service

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1955.

AREA, POPULATION AND SCHOOLS.

Area (administrative county) ... 454,725 acres.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate) ... 325,300

Schools:

<i>Type of school.</i>	<i>Number of schools.</i>	<i>Number of children in attendance.</i>
Nursery Schools ...	13	471
Primary Schools (including All-Age Schools) ...	235	31,556
Secondary Grammar Schools ...	12	4,113
Secondary Modern Schools ...	19	7,761
Totals ...	279	43,901

Special Schools:

Cold Ash Children's Hospital, near Newbury.

Donnington Lodge Special School for the Deaf, near Newbury.

Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot.

Holyport Manor, near Maidenhead.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Periodic Medical Inspection is carried out (a) as soon as possible after first admission to a maintained school; (b) as soon as possible after attaining the age of eight years; (c) in the last year at a primary school; and (d) at secondary schools, as soon as possible after attaining the age of fourteen years and annually thereafter unless an equivalent inspection is provided during the pupil's last year.

Special Medical Inspection is carried out in respect of: (a) children referred on account of suspected defect by Head Teachers, parents, Education Welfare Officers, Health Visitors, District Nurses, etc.; (b) children within the various groups of Handicapped Pupils. In addition, re-inspection is provided for many children found to be suffering from defects and in need of follow-up, as the result of a previous medical inspection. Absentees from medical inspection are given new appointments at the next opportunity at the particular school.

HYGIENIC CONDITIONS IN SCHOOLS.

The School Medical Officers report on the hygienic conditions in each school once a year at the time of medical inspection. Details are submitted to the Director of Education for action when this is considered to be necessary.

MILK IN SCHOOLS.

Free milk is supplied to all children in attendance at school. An average of 34,112 children were supplied daily during the year, an increase of over 2,500 in comparison with the previous year, the proportionate rise being again greater than that of the school population.

It was again possible to arrange for all schools to receive either Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised milk.

SCHOOL MEALS.

The number of meals supplied for payment averaged 21,940 during the year (compared with 19,672 last year), and a further 651 were supplied free.

The number of meals supplied in 1952 was 19,232. There was a marked fall in 1953, which was attributed to the increase in the cost of meals in March of that year. The proportion of children taking school meals showed a further rise in 1955, and the proportion is now back to about what it was in 1952.

PHYSICAL TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

Special attention is given by the medical staff to children who require suspension or reduction of physical activities on health grounds. Information on such cases is derived chiefly from hospitals or medical practitioners, and all cases are periodically reviewed.

EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Applications were received in respect of 698 children for the issue of Employment Certificates, under the Children and Young Persons Act, during the year, compared with 718 in the previous year. A medical examination was made in each case, and two children were found to be medically unfit for employment. One Certificate was later rescinded on the ground that

employment out of school hours was found to be detrimental to the health of the child. The following list shows the number of children employed during 1955, and the various types of employment:—

Newspaper delivery	...	...	...	...	...	412
Shop Assistant	...	...	...	...	...	102
“Errands”	...	...	...	...	...	100
Other delivery work	...	...	...	...	...	38
Horticultural and Agricultural Work (light)	...	...	...	...	...	17
Domestic work	...	...	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	17

Special attention is paid at last medical inspection to those children who should not be engaged, on leaving school, in certain types of employment or under certain working conditions. Where necessary the prescribed certificates are issued, and the unsuitable employments or working conditions are specified; 46 such certificates were given during the year.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION
AND
ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT.

GENERAL CONDITION.

The School Medical Officers assess the general condition and nutritional state of all children examined in the periodic age groups. The following table shows the findings for 1955, and those for the previous year:—

<i>Groups.</i>	<i>1954.</i>		<i>1955.</i>	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
A (good) ...	5,474	34·5	6,512	38·5
B (fair) ...	9,720	61·3	9,815	58·1
C (poor) ...	666	4·2	579	3·4

The three nutritional groups that were adopted in 1947 continued to be used, in place of the four groups that had been in use previously. The figures again showed the same trends as in the previous year, a fall in group C, and a rise in A at the expense of B. This is very satisfactory, for it forms an important indication of an improvement in general health.

Fuller statistical details will be found in Table 2B on page 16.

CHILDREN REQUIRING TREATMENT.

A total of 1,607 individual children were found to be suffering from 1,654 defects considered to require treatment, a percentage of 9·5 of all children examined at periodic medical inspection. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 11·8.

SKIN DISEASE AND MINOR AILMENTS.

A total of 3,814 attendances were made at the Minor Ailments Clinics in Maidenhead, Windsor, and Didcot. Other children are able to obtain treatment from either School or District Nurses, at the out-patient departments of hospitals, or from general medical practitioners. The School Nurses treated 1,362 cases of minor ailments during the year, compared with 859 in 1954. This continues for a second year the reversal of the trend that this figure has shown in recent years, and which has been attributed to free general practitioner and hospital treatment under the National Health Service.

The numbers of cases of impetigo and scabies are shown in the following table:—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>1951.</i>	<i>1952.</i>	<i>1953.</i>	<i>1954.</i>	<i>1955.</i>
Impetigo ...	47	121	74	78	108
Scabies	10	7	4	4	2

It was not found necessary during 1955 to provide X-ray treatment for any cases of ringworm.

UNCLEANLINESS.

A total of 99,021 routine examinations were made in the schools by the School Nurses during the year. Of this number, 703 children were found to be in a verminous condition; of these, 37 were excluded from school for periods of varying length. Re-examinations were made in 2,952 instances, and 249 children were found still to be in a verminous condition; of these, 13 were re-excluded. In the work of the School Nurse special emphasis is laid on the treatment of the family as a whole in this condition, for treatment of the individual school child alone is generally a waste of time. The percentage of children found to be verminous in 1955 is only 0·7 per cent., which is lower than in the previous year.

The School Nurses made a total of 3,144 *home visits* during the year, in connection with both Verminous Conditions and Minor Ailments combined.

EYES (DEFECTIVE VISION, SQUINT, AND EXTERNAL EYE DISEASES).

Children found at periodic medical inspection to be suffering from defective vision, squint, or external eye disease are referred to ophthalmic surgeons. Eye clinics were held on 245 occasions at 13 centres.

The following table summarises the work carried out at eye clinics during the year, and gives the corresponding figures for the previous year:—

	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>
Number of children examined or re-examined ...	3,364	3,450
Number recommended to obtain spectacles ...	1,020	1,069
Number recommended treatment other than by spectacles	36	35

Owing to the fact that spectacles are now supplied through private opticians under the National Health Service Act, it is no longer possible to give the number actually supplied.

The Regional Hospital Boards continued to provide the medical staff at special eye clinics for school children, and the education authority all other provision. These arrangements continue to be of great benefit to school children, who are able to receive prompt attention without having to travel

the long distances that are often entailed if they can go only to major hospital centres.

Cases of squint are treated by Orthoptists at special clinics, and these are held at five centres, as follows:—

Eye Hospital, Oxford.
Greenham House, Newbury.
The Hospital, Maidenhead.
Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

Operative treatment for squint is provided at hospitals in Oxford or Reading. During 1955, 70 cases of squint were referred for operation or orthoptic exercises.

Four new cases were admitted to Special Schools for the Blind during the year; 18 children were receiving education at such schools during 1955, and there were 2 discharges.

There was one new admission to a Special School for the Partially Blind during the year; this made a total of 11 children undergoing education at such schools during the year. Two cases were discharged before the end of the year.

EAR DISEASE.

The School Nurses visit all cases of ear disease when it is known that no doctor is in attendance, and parents are urged to seek the necessary treatment. In the majority of instances treatment was obtained, either from general medical practitioners or at general hospitals.

In all, 37 cases of otitis media who were considered to need treatment were found during the year.

Four new cases were admitted to Special Schools for the deaf during the year; these, with 43 undergoing such education on 1st January, 1955, made a total of 47 children in such schools during the year. By the end of the year 7 of these had been discharged. Of the total cases, 16 were in the Authority's own Special School at Donnington Lodge, near Newbury.

One new case was admitted to a Special School for the Partially Deaf; 9 children were already in on 1st January, 1955, and 1 case was discharged during the year.

NOSE AND THROAT CONDITIONS.

Cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids considered to require operative treatment are referred to the ear, nose and throat specialists at general hospitals. The number of cases referred in this way during the year was 95, compared with 123 in the previous year, and 103 in 1953. Before referring a

case to hospital, attention is paid to the possibility of benefit from dental or dietetic measures, and the advisability of a period of observation is considered in all cases.

SPEECH.

Children found at periodic medical inspection to be suffering from a speech defect requiring treatment are referred to the full-time Speech Therapists or to the Therapist at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford; a few cases are also treated at the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor. A list of clinics will be found on page 24.

A total of 240 children made 3,484 attendances at the clinics during the year. There were 113 new cases, and 80 children were recalled for observation. In the previous year, 196 children made a total of 2,935 attendances, and there were 79 new cases.

The following list gives the diagnosis of new cases:—

Articulatory Defects	...	...	...	...	85
Stammer	...	...	...	...	28

By the end of the year 56 cases had been discharged for the following reasons:—

Cured ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Left school	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Left county	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Refused further treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

A total of 184 cases were still undergoing treatment at the end of the year, while a further 64 cases were on the waiting list for examination by the Speech Therapist.

This was the first full year with a second Speech Therapist. The rise in the number of cases dealt with shows how necessary was this second appointment, while the continued existence of a waiting list indicates that the needs are still probably not fully met.

There were no new admissions to Special Schools for Children with Speech Defects, and 2 cases were undergoing education in such schools during the year. There were no discharges before the end of the year.

DENTAL DEFECTS.

A Special Report by the Principal School Dental Officer will be found on page 11, and the statistical table appears on page 19.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

All children coming within the various groups of Handicapped Pupils were examined at the periodic medical inspections, together with new cases considered likely to require treatment.

SPASTIC PARALYSIS.

The Authority's original Spastic Unit met in the home of one of the children. In September, 1952, accommodation was found for it in a small hall at Shurlock Row. In May, 1953, the Unit was moved to better accommodation at Markham House in Wokingham. The specially qualified teacher continued to be in charge, and arrangements for regular visits by a physiotherapist from one of the Reading hospitals, and by a Speech Therapist, were continued.

It is still the case that only a very small number of Education Authorities make special provision for this particular handicap.

Many milder cases of spastic paralysis attend ordinary schools, and these children are specially examined at school medical inspection.

One child was in a Special School for Spastics at the commencement of 1955, and there were no admissions or discharges during the year.

DISEASES OF THE HEART AND CIRCULATORY DISORDERS.

All children suffering from heart trouble which did not prevent their attendance at school were supervised by the School Medical Officers. Those who were unable to attend school were visited in their homes. The number of children with a heart condition considered to require treatment during 1955 was 27.

There were no children in Heart Homes during the year.

The number of cases of acute rheumatism still continues to remain very low. The Special Unit for Research into Acute Rheumatism at the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, continued its work, and a number of Berkshire children were admitted during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 16 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in school children notified during 1955. A further 17 new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 14 and 15 respectively.

ORTHOPAEDIC DEFECTS.

Treatment is carried out by the staff of the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, Oxford.

Clinics are held at the following centres:—

Abingdon, Warren Hospital.

Henley, Southfield Hall.

Maidenhead, The Hospital.

Newbury, Greenham House.

Oxford, Radcliffe Infirmary.

Reading, Royal Berkshire Hospital.
 Wallingford, Memorial Hospital.
 Wantage, Cottage Hospital.
 Windsor, King Edward VII Hospital.
 Wokingham, Memorial Clinic.

A total of 321 children were referred for treatment at these clinics during the year. In-patient treatment is provided at the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital.

Seven children were admitted to Special Schools during the year and these, with 15 cases already in on 1st January, 1955, made a total of 22 children receiving special treatment and education during the year. Two cases were discharged before the end of the year.

Statistical details will be found in Table 2 on page 15.

EPILEPSY.

Children suffering from epilepsy whose condition does not prevent them from attending school are examined each year as "Specials" at periodic medical inspection. Those who are unable to attend school are supervised in their homes.

During the year, 59 children suffering from epilepsy were examined. Six children were in Special Schools for Epileptics at the commencement of the year, and there were no new admissions. Two cases were discharged during the year.

EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN.

Special reference is made to this category of children in the introduction to this Report.

School Medical Officers holding the necessary special qualification completed 361 intelligence tests on school children during the year, compared with 385 in the previous year.

There were 681 children awaiting special educational treatment at the end of the year. Of these, 304 were awaiting vacancies in special schools and the remaining 377 required education in a special class in an ordinary school. The figures for 1954 were 290 and 315 respectively.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

During 1955 a total of 78 children were considered, after testing, to be so mentally sub-normal as to make it necessary to report them to the Local Health Authority under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944. The numbers of children reported to the Local Health Authority in each of the last three years previous to 1955 were respectively 75, 56 and 62. As far as possible a final decision to report a child as ineducable is deferred until the child is seven, and exceptions are only made to this rule in the worst cases.

MALADJUSTED PUPILS.

The Berkshire Child Guidance Clinics are provided by a Joint Committee of the Berkshire County and Reading Borough Education Committees, and have Headquarters at 27, Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading, and a branch at 3, Clare Road, Maidenhead. Clinics are held at the following centres:—

Abingdon: Summerfield Hostel.

Caversham: 27, Kidmore Road.

Maidenhead: 3, Clare Road.

Newbury: Greenham House.

Five hostels are provided at:—

“Summerfield,” Abingdon.

2, St. Peter's Hill, Caversham.

Greenfield House, Maidenhead.

Mockbeggar Hostel, Reading.

Field House, Wokingham.

The Parents' Club, commenced in 1951, continued to serve a most useful purpose in supplementing the home visits of the Psychiatric Social Workers.

Detailed statistics of the work carried out during 1955 will be found in Table 8 on page 23.

Twenty-eight children were already in Homes for Maladjusted Children at the start of the year, and a further 8 cases were admitted during 1955. Nine cases were discharged during the year.

At the beginning of the year the Committee gave special consideration to the Child Guidance Service, with special reference to: (a) the need to strengthen the staff in regard to educational psychologists, and (b) whether it would not be better for Berkshire to have its own service, organised separately from that of Reading. Eventually it was decided to postpone any final decisions until the expected Report of the Ministry of Education's Committee on Maladjusted Children was available.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

These schools are periodically visited by the School Medical Officers, and the children in attendance are medically examined. The School Nurses assist at these inspections and, in addition, visit each school once a month in order to make a general examination of each child. The total number examined by the School Medical Officers was 470, including “Specials.”

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS.

Special arrangements were made for medical inspection to be carried out at: (i) Roysse's School, Abingdon; (ii) Holyport Manor School; (iii) Donnington Lodge Special School for the Deaf; (iv) Easthampstead Park Training College for Teachers; (v) St. Gabriel's Convent School, Cold Ash; and (vi) Sandleford Priory Convent School, Newbury.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER
REGARDING
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT
FOR THE YEAR
1955.

During the year we were sorry to lose the services of Mrs. Sievers, a part-time dental officer, who resigned at the end of May owing to domestic reasons, but we were fortunate in that Miss Jaks returned to our staff for four sessions a week, and Mrs. Maudsley has undertaken one session a week and Mr. Scott five. These staff changes amount to an increase of approximately one-third of a full-time dental officer.

Unfortunately, there has been a considerable loss of working time owing to illness. One dental officer was away for over six months and another for three months. I fear that with the increasing age of our staff this is liable to happen to an increasing extent.

Work has been carried out in the fixed clinics, mobile dental units, village halls and schools. I hope that the fixed clinic envisaged for Wokingham will soon materialise, as it will considerably facilitate the work in that area.

Unless we are able to offer potential dental officers good clinics to work in, I feel they will not consider joining our staff when other authorities can offer fixed clinics, and in some cases other inducements as well.

Figures just issued show how grave the position is in the dental profession.

The number of students entering dental schools in recent years was as follows:—

1951	...	...	592	1953	...	...	466
1952	...	...	537	1954	...	...	478

Not all these qualify, and of those that do, a certain proportion are foreigners, or from the Colonies, who, on qualifying, return to their homes.

These figures must be compared with the numbers whose names are removed from the Dental Register:—

1951	...	...	564	1953	...	...	757
1952	...	...	591	1954	...	...	581

So the position is that the number on the Register is steadily decreasing. The prospect of obtaining young full-time dental officers at present is therefore not good.

I should like to thank all those who have contributed to the successful running of the dental scheme, dental officers and attendants, office staff, and the teaching staff who are always so helpful when we take our mobile units to the schools.

I should also like to take this opportunity of placing on record my thanks to the dental and X-ray staff of the hospitals who have been so helpful in seeing dental patients referred to them, and also to those private practitioners who undertake sessions for us in their own surgeries.

(Signed) O. JACOB,

Principal School Dental Officer.

STATISTICAL TABLES

N.B.—Tables 1 to 5 are as prescribed by the Minister of Education.

All figures and percentages in these tables refer, unless otherwise stated, to the calendar year, i.e. 1st January to 31st December, 1955.

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TABLE 1.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS :—

Number of Inspections in the Prescribed Groups :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,665
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,525
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,553
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,743
Number of Other Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,163
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,906

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS :—

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	6,926
Number of Re-inspections...	...	...	...	...	3,895
Total	...	...	...	...	10,821

C. PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL PUPILS FOUND AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS TO REQUIRE
TREATMENT (EXCLUDING DENTAL DISEASES AND INFESTATION WITH VERMIN).

Group.	Defective Vision (excluding Squint).	Any other Conditions recorded in Table 2 A.	Total Number of Individual Children with Defects.
Entrants	151	430	569
Second Age Group ...	139	194	325
Third Age Group... ..	96	105	193
Totals	386	729	1,087
Other Periodic Inspections	250	289	520
GRAND TOTALS ...	636	1,018	1,607

TABLE 2.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Defect or Disease.	Periodic Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	Number of Defects.			
	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.
Skin 	65	67	39	33
Eyes—				
Vision 	636	688	339	364
Squint 	59	48	31	33
Other 	24	22	24	18
Ears—				
Hearing... 	29	86	25	44
Otitis Media 	25	38	12	18
Other 	2	23	20	5
Nose and Throat 	322	439	212	185
Speech 	47	85	63	60
Cervical Glands 	12	113	3	67
Heart and Circulation 	15	87	12	69
Lungs 	56	160	36	108
Developmental—				
Hernia 	24	32	12	20
Other 	26	254	13	160
Orthopaedic—				
Posture 	21	183	41	120
Flat Feet 	40	177	30	97
Other 	120	217	69	155
Nervous System—				
Epilepsy 	12	9	17	21
Other 	4	25	2	12
Psychological—				
Development 	56	95	84	163
Stability 	25	87	37	71
Other Defects and Diseases ...	67	119	93	99

TABLE 2—*continued*.

B. CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED.

Age Groups.	Number of Pupils inspected.	A (good).		B (fair).		C (poor).	
		Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Entrants ...	5,665	1,999	35.3	3,473	61.3	193	3.4
Second Age Group	3,525	1,540	43.7	1,873	53.1	112	3.2
Third Age Group	2,553	1,137	44.5	1,348	52.8	68	2.7
Other Periodic Inspections ...	5,163	1,836	35.6	3,121	60.4	206	4.0
TOTALS ...	16,906	6,512	38.5	9,815	58.1	579	3.4

TABLE 3.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

i. Total Number of Examinations in the Schools by the School Nurses or other Authorised Persons ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101,973
ii. Total Number of Individual Pupils found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	703
iii. Number of Individual Pupils in respect of whom Cleansing Notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
iv. Number of Individual Pupils in respect of whom Cleansing Notices were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE 4.

TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS).

Disease.	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year.	
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
Ringworm—		
Scalp	—	—
Body	8	—
Scabies	2	—
Impetigo	108	2
Other Skin Diseases	56	4
Totals	174	6

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION, AND SQUINT.

Disease.	Number of cases treated.	
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
External and Other (excluding errors of refraction and squint)	275	2
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	3,450	6
Totals	3,725	8
Number of Pupils for whom Spectacles were :—		
(a) Prescribed	1,069	6
(b) Obtained	1,069	6

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT.

Disease or Defect.	Number of cases treated.	
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
Received Operative Treatment for:—		
(a) Diseases of the Ear	} Unknown	Unknown
(b) Adenoids and Chronic Tonsillitis		
(c) Other Nose and Throat Conditions		
Received other forms of Treatment	103	3
Total	103	3

TABLE 4—*continued.*

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) Number treated as In-patients in Hospitals	Unknown	
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in Clinics or Out-patient Departments	321	Unknown

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE.

	Number of cases treated.	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics.	Elsewhere.
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	402	Unknown

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY.

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	240	Unknown

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN.

	Number of cases treated	
Disease.	By the Authority.	Otherwise.
(a) Miscellaneous Minor Ailments	2,683	6
(b) Other than above	—	
Total	2,683	6

TABLE 5.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE
AUTHORITY.

1.	Number of pupils inspected:—										
	(a) Periodic Age Groups	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,806	
	(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	772	
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>26,578</u>	
2.	Number found to require treatment			...	...	...	...	...	...	15,995	
3.	Number referred for treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,059	
4.	Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,742	
5.	Attendances made for treatment			...	...	...	...	...	...	14,542	
6.	Half-days devoted to:—										
	(a) Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	268		
	(b) Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,997		
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u> </u>	2,265	
7.	Fillings:—										
	(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,068		
	(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,227		
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u> </u>	7,295	
8.	Number of Teeth Filled:—										
	(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,660		
	(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,179		
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u> </u>	6,839	
9.	Extractions:—										
	(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,371		
	(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,653		
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u> </u>	9,024	
10.	Administration of General Anaesthetics for Extractions						...	...	...	2,915	
11.	Other Operations:—										
	(a) Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,127		
	(b) Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	922		
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u> </u>	2,049	

TABLE 6.
NURSERY SCHOOLS.

A. INSPECTIONS BY THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS.

(i) Number examined :—

Routines	...	...	...	...	...	419
Specials	...	...	...	...	...	51
Total	...	...	...	...	...	470

(ii) Classification of the General Condition of the Pupils in the Routine Group:—

Total Number of Children examined.	A (Good).		B (Fair).		C (Poor).	
	Number.	Percent- age.	Number.	Percent- age.	Number.	Percent- age.
419	153	36.5	255	60.9	11	2.6

TABLE 6—*continued.*

(iii) RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION AT THE NURSERY SCHOOLS.

Defect or Disease	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	Number of Defects.			
	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.
Skin	2	3	—	—
Eyes—				
Vision	2	2	—	1
Squint	3	2	2	—
Other	1	1	—	—
Ears—				
Hearing	1	3	—	—
Otitis Media	2	1	—	—
Other	2	1	—	—
Nose and Throat ...	12	35	5	6
Speech... ..	—	11	—	4
Cervical Glands ...	—	5	—	3
Heart and Circulation	1	4	—	2
Lungs	1	3	—	—
Developmental—				
Hernia	—	1	—	1
Other	3	5	1	1
Orthopaedic—				
Posture	—	1	—	—
Flat Feet	—	14	—	3
Other	4	14	—	2
Nervous System—				
Epilepsy	—	2	1	1
Other	—	—	1	—
Psychological—				
Development	2	2	1	2
Stability	—	1	—	1
Other Defects and Diseases	15	7	1	1

TABLE 7.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

Condition.	Pupils in Schools on 1st January, 1955.	Admitted during 1955.	Total Pupils in Schools during 1955.	Discharged during 1955.	Pupils still in on 31st December, 1955.
Blind	14	4	18	2	16
Partially Sighted	10	1	11	2	9
Deaf and Dumb	43	4	47	7	40
Partially Deaf ...	9	1	10	1	9
Educationally Sub-normal ...	137	45	182	36	146
Epileptic... ..	6	—	6	2	4
Heart	—	—	—	—	—
Maladjusted ...	28	8	36	9	27
Physically Handicapped	15	7	22	2	20
Spastic Paralysis	1	—	1	—	1
Speech	2	—	2	—	2
Miscellaneous ...	18	26	44	28	16
TOTALS	283	96	379	89	290

TABLE 8.

CHILD GUIDANCE.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT AT THE BERKSHIRE CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS
DURING 1955, ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN ATTENDING THE MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN BERKSHIRE

Number under treatment on 1st January, 1955 ...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Number under supervision on 1st January, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	194
Number awaiting treatment on 1st January, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	41
Number awaiting diagnostic interview on 1st January, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	36
Number of cases re-opened during 1955 ...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Number of new cases referred during 1955	...	...	...	...	...	240
Total	...	...	...	...	...	<hr/>593

Number of cases treated and closed:—

[illegible]

Closed after advice and supervision	29
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Seen for consultation only	78
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Number not seen for various reasons	16
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Number of cases outstanding on 31st December, 1955:—

[illegible][illegible]

Number of interviews and visits:—

Psychiatrists—

[illegible]

Educational Psychologist—

[illegible]

Psychiatric Social Workers—

[illegible]

TABLE 9.

CLINICS.

DENTAL.

Fixed Clinics.

Didcot :	The Courthouse	6 Sessions weekly.
Faringdon :	The Cottage Hospital	2 ditto
Maidenhead :	The Wilderness	8-10 ditto
Newbury :	Greenham House	8-10 ditto
Reading :	11, Abbots Walk	6-8 ditto
Windsor :	Kipling Memorial Building ...	5 ditto

Clinics held in Schools and Village Halls. (Arranged as required.)

Aldermaston.	Donnington Lodge.	Sutton Courtenay.
Appleford.	Frilsham.	Thatcham.
Aston Tirrold.	Holyport Manor.	Theale.
Beech Hill.	Hurst.	Twyford.
Beenham.	Milton.	Upper Basildon.
Binfield.	Pangbourne.	Waltham St. Lawrence.
Bisham.	Shinfield.	Warfield.
Blewbury.	South Moreton.	Wargrave.
Bracknell.	Spencers Wood	Wokingham.
Bradfield.	Streatley.	Wokingham, St. Sebastian.
Cholsey	Sulhamstead.	Woodley.
Cold Ash	Sunninghill.	Woolhampton.
Crowthorne.		

Two Mobile Dental Units are also used.

MINOR AILMENTS.

Didcot :	The Courthouse	2 hours (Monday).
Maidenhead :	(i) The Wilderness	1 hour daily (Mon. to Fri.)
	(ii) Boyn Hill School	ditto
	(iii) Ellington School	ditto
	(iv) Courthouse and Alwyn Schools	ditto
Windsor :	Kipling Memorial Building ...	1 hour (Mon. Wed. & Fri.)

OPHTHALMIC.

Abingdon :	Marcham Road Hospital ...	2 Sessions per month.
Botley :	Oxford Eye Hospital	1 Session bi-monthly.
Didcot :	Cottage Hospital	1 Session monthly.
Faringdon :	Cottage Hospital	2 Sessions monthly.
Maidenhead :	The Wilderness	1 Session weekly.
Newbury :	Greenham House	1 ditto
Wallingford :	The Hospital	1 Session monthly.
Wantage :	The Hospital	1 ditto
Windsor :	King Edward VII Hospital ...	1 Session weekly.
Bracknell :	Church Hall	} 1 Session per week at one of these clinics.
Crowthorne :	British Legion Club	
Reading :	Royal Berks Hospital	
Wokingham :	Methodist Hall	

ORTHOPTIC.

Newbury :	Greenham House	4 Sessions per week.
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SPEECH.

Bracknell :	Victoria Hall	2 Sessions per week.
Didcot :	St. Birinus' School	2 ditto
Maidenhead :	The Wilderness	3 ditto
Newbury :	Greenham House	4 ditto
Reading :	11, Abbots Walk	3 ditto
Wantage :	County School	2 ditto
Wokingham	Markham House	2 ditto
Holyport Manor Special School	1 Session per week.
Spastic Class at Markham House, Wokingham	1 ditto

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